Met Office

June 2011

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.

UK overview

The month began on a fine, warm note, but the weather gradually became more unsettled, with showers and some longer spells of rain. These eased the very dry conditions across parts of eastern England. A short-lived warm spell in the last week gave the highest temperatures of 2011. Temperatures overall were close to the 1981-2010 average, although somewhat below in western areas. It was the coolest June across the UK since 2001. The monthly rainfall pattern reflects the showery nature of the month. Parts of southern England, south Wales, Northern Ireland and southern and eastern Scotland were wetter than normal. In contrast, some parts of the Midlands had a relatively dry month. Sunshine totals overall were close to normal, varying from a little below in most of Scotland to above normal from west Wales across to eastern England.

A maximum temperature of 33.1 °C was recorded at Gravesend (Kent) on the 27th, the highest temperature of 2011. A minimum temperature of -1.9 °C was recorded at Altnaharra (Highland) early on the 10th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 on the 13th, 72.6 mm of rainfall was recorded at Treherbert, Mid Glamorgan. A wind gust of 69 mph was recorded on Fair Isle overnight 13th / 14th.

Weather Impacts

On 10th, parts of the east Midlands and East Anglia were declared to be suffering drought conditions, following the very dry Spring. This declaration allowed additional restrictions to be placed on the extraction of water from rivers for irrigation purposes.

However, the remainder of the month saw some rain on many days, even in the drought-hit areas. This caused some disruption to outdoor events such as the Isle of Wight music festival and the Wimbledon tennis championships.

The 27th was the first day this summer when the temperature exceeded 30 °C anywhere in the UK. A Heat-Health alert was issued for eastern England, where temperatures rose above 30 °C widely and it was the hottest day for 5 years.

Thunderstorms across eastern England during the afternoon of 28th caused delays to some train services out of London as a result of lightning strikes on signals and flooded lines. There were also some delays to flights at airports such as Gatwick and homes struck by lightning. More than 20mm of rain fell in an hour in parts of East Anglia, with localised flooding.

England diary of highlights

The month began on a fine, warm note but the weather gradually became more unsettled, with showers and some longer spells of rain. These brought some welcome respite to the very dry conditions across parts of eastern England. Eastern areas enjoyed a brief spell of hot, sunny weather in the last week, before a thundery breakdown. The mean temperature for the month was near average for England overall, although it was the coolest June since 2001. It was rather wet over much of central southern and south-east England, with over 150% of normal rainfall in places, but drier than normal over the north Midlands and parts of the north-west. Sunshine amounts were somewhat above normal in the Midlands and many eastern areas, but near normal elsewhere.

1st to 5th

A sunny, settled start to the month. It was particularly warm from 2nd to 4th, with plenty of sunshine and light winds allowing temperatures to climb above 22 °C widely, with 28.1 °C at Solent (Hampshire) on 4th, the highest temperature since 23rd April. On 5th some rain moved south-eastwards, bringing a welcome 15 mm or more to much of the south-east. There was over 25 mm in the London area, Surrey and Kent and parts of south-east England, with 35.2 mm recorded at Wisley (Surrey).

6th to 25th

This period was generally unsettled. Heavy thundery showers occurred across northern areas on 7th, transferring eastwards to leave breezy, showery weather until 10th. The nights of 10/11th and 11/12th saw unusually low overnight minimum temperatures, falling widely below 5 °C with a few rural areas recording an air frost, such as South Newington (Oxfordshire) with - 0.2 °C early on 12th. However, cloud and rain then quickly spread in from the south-west, persistent and moderate to heavy in the west; 26.6 mm was recorded at Hurn (Dorset). The unsettled conditions continued, as weather fronts brought further spells of rain or showers, sometimes thundery with gusty south-westerly winds. Between the fronts there were brief interludes of more settled weather. However, showers developed widely on several days, for example on 22nd and 23rd, in a generally brisk westerly air flow.

26th to 30th

High pressure brought very warm, humid air across eastern and south-east areas. On 26th, temperatures exceeded 27 °C widely in central and eastern areas. The night of 26/27th saw overnight temperatures no lower than 19 °C in parts of the south, with an overnight minimum of 19.9 °C at Benson (Oxfordshire). On the 27th, 30 °C was exceeded as far north as Bramham (Yorkshire) with 31.1 °C. The 33.1 °C recorded at Gravesend (Kent) was the highest UK temperature of the year and the highest since July 2006. However, in the west, temperatures were somewhat lower. On 28th, there was thundery end to the brief heatwave, with hourly rainfalls of 20 mm recorded in East Anglia. The 29th and 30th saw further showers, locally thundery down the eastern side, whilst pressure built to bring fine but rather cool weather from the south-west.

Wales diary of highlights

The first few days were fine and warm but the weather gradually became more unsettled, with showers and some longer spells of rain. Fine, settled conditions returned towards the end of the month. The mean temperature for the month was somewhat below the 1981-2010 average, and it was the coolest June since 1999. It was a rather wet month over much of south and mid-Wales, with totals around 150% of average in places, but amounts elsewhere were nearer normal. Sunshine durations were somewhat above normal generally.

1st to 6th

The month began with a fine spell. Most areas were dry with light winds and some sunshine but low cloud and sea fog affected western coasts at times. Temperatures exceeded 20 °C in places on 2nd and more widely on 3rd, with 25.9 °C at Hawarden (Flintshire). Another very warm day followed on 4th with 25.4 °C recorded at Porthmadog (Gwynedd). The heat set off heavy showers and a few thunderstorms overnight and during 5th. By 6th it had become cloudier from the west with low pressure starting to move in from the Atlantic.

7th to 25th

Much of this period was unsettled with periods of rain or showers, but with drier and brighter interludes. Winds were quite strong at times and generally remained in the west or south-west. On 10th the air was cold enough for the showers to deposit snow on the top of Snowdon. Clear skies overnight 11/12th saw temperatures fall

away quite widely, with a low of -0.2 °C at Llysdinam (Powys). During 12th heavy rain spreading in from the south-west gave a total of 43.8 mm at St Athan (Vale of Glamorgan) in 24 hours.

26th to 28th

Southerly winds brought very warm air from the continent. Temperatures exceeded 25 °C widely on 26th, when 27.0 °C was recorded at Rhyl (Denbighshire), and exceeded 23 °C inland on 27th when 26.0 °C was recorded at Llysdinam. Cooler weather had returned by 28th after some showers.

29th to 30th

Pressure started to build again towards the end of the month, with dry and fine weather for much of the country and a light north-westerly breeze.

Scotland diary of highlights

There were a few fine, warm days in the first and last weeks, but otherwise it was an unsettled month with showers or longer spells of rain. The mean temperature was somewhat below the 1981-2010 normal and it was the coolest June since 2001. Rainfall was near average in the north and west, but somewhat above normal in the south and east with some places recording over 150% of average. Sunshine durations were generally close to normal, ranging from somewhat below across many southern and central areas to somewhat above in the Northern and Western Isles.

1st

Cloudy with rain, heavy at times, across the north-west on 1st with Kinlochewe (Highland) reporting 42.6 mm in the 24 hours to 0900. Becoming dry and bright in the east later.

2nd to 3rd

Cloudy in the north-west and Shetland with patchy rain on 2nd. Elsewhere dry, sunny and very warm, with 25.4 °C at Dyce (Aberdeen). Dry and very warm again on 3rd with almost unbroken sunshine, and 26.7 °C at Aboyne (Aberdeenshire).

4th to 24th

Mostly cloudy on 4th with light rain and drizzle, but bright in the north and south-west. Dry and bright in the north on 5th but cloudy elsewhere with showers. Mostly dry and bright in the east on 6th and cloudier in the west with rain, some heavy rain later. Sunshine and heavy thundery showers developed each day from 7th to 10th, with a thundery shower giving 15.6 mm in an hour at Eskdalemuir (Dumfries and Galloway) on 10th. Cloudy with rain on 11th, heavy and thundery in places, but sunny across the far west and south-west. Showers on 12th mainly in the north, but rain spread into the south in the afternoon, heavy in places by evening. An area of rain moved up from the south-west on 13th heavy at times especially in the Northern isles. Wet and windy again in the Northern Isles on 14th, with a 69 mph gust at Fair Isle. Elsewhere mainly dry with bright intervals. Bright spells and scattered showers on 15th with Fyvie Castle (Aberdeenshire) reaching 21.1 °C. Persistent rain affected the Northern Isles on 16th but brighter elsewhere with showers, some heavy and thundery, especially in Aberdeenshire. On 17th, while the north-east stayed mainly fine and dry, rain spread to the south and west, bringing 43.8 mm to West Freugh (Dumfries and Galloway) in 24 hours ending 0900 on 18th. More rain on 18th, although the north stayed sunnier. On 19th showers developed across central and southern areas, locally thundery. The 20th was mainly dry apart from a few afternoon / evening showers. Rain arrived in the south-west later, spreading to all but the far north on 21st. The rain became persistent and heavy, with 47.0 mm recorded at Gogarbank (Edinburgh) in the 24 hours up to 0900 on 22nd, which itself was cool and rather cloudy. The 23rd was brighter with sunshine and showers, locally thundery. Sunshine and showers on 24th, before more general rain spread from the west in the evening.

25th to 26th

Rain followed by showers on 25th. Turning very warm, with West Freugh reporting 20.3 °C. On 26th, the north and north-west were cloudy with outbreaks of rain, heaviest over the north-west Highlands, but it was brighter in the south-east, with temperatures there peaking around 22 °C.

27th to 30th

The 27th was mainly cloudy in the east with outbreaks of rain, 16.4 mm being recorded at Dyce (Aberdeen), whilst the west was mostly dry and bright. Bright, sunny or clear spells and occasional showers on 28th and 29th, some heavy and thundery, with 20.8 mm recorded at Eskdalemuir in 24 hours to 0900 on 30th. The 30th was sunny with scattered showers.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

There were a few fine, warm days early and late in the month but otherwise it was unsettled and showery. Mean temperatures were around 1.0 °C below the 1981-2010 normal and it was the coolest June since 1994. Rainfall was generally above average, with more than 150% of the normal amount over much of Counties Antrim and Londonderry. Sunshine totals were close to normal.

1st to 4th

A cloudy start on 1st with light rain then drier and brighter with sunny spells. Dry and very warm on 2nd and 3rd. The warmest place was Castlederg (County Tyrone), reaching 24.2 °C on 2nd and 25.2 °C on 3rd. A bright day on 4th, although not as warm, with rain in the evening.

5th to 24th

Cloudy and wet on 5th, the rain heavy and persistent with 20 to 30 mm reported widely; 29.8 mm was recorded at Balllypatrick Forest (County Antrim). A mostly dry start to 6th then outbreaks of rain. Sunshine and thundery showers on 7th and 8th, with some localised flooding. Thundery showers continued on 9th, 10th and 11th. Dry start to 12th but rain, heavy at times, later. Cloudy with rain at first but brightening up later on 13th. A cold start on 14th with a temperature of only 0.1 °C at Katesbridge (County Down), then dry and bright before rain later. Cloudy with showers on morning of 15th, then drier and brighter in the afternoon with the temperature reaching 21.6 °C at Killowen (County Down). A mainly dry start to 16th but showers in the afternoon, some heavy and thundery. Rain on 17th, with 35.2 mm recorded at Killowen, the west brightening later. Showers on 18th.and 19th. The 20th saw a few showers then rain later. Rain cleared early on 21st then showers some heavy with thunder. The 22nd was cloudy with showers. The 23rd was brighter with sunshine and showers. Showers again on 24th but more general rain later.

25th to 26th

Rain then showers on 25th. It became warm, with Killowen recording 24.1 °C. Mainly dry and bright on 26th, and warm with the best of the sunshine in the east.

27th to 30th

The 27th was mainly dry with bright spells, although there was some patchy light rain. Bright, sunny or clear spells and occasional showers, some heavy and thundery, on 28th. A cold start to 29th, with a minimum temperature of 0.5 °C at Katesbridge, otherwise sunny intervals and showers. Sunny intervals and a few showers on 30th.

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